



ISE: Integrated Skills in English (paper edition)

Teacher resources

Independent listening tasks

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Teacher information

Sample independent listening task 1

Isle of Arran

Examiner rubric

Give the candidate some blank notepaper.

You're going to hear a short talk about an island called Arran. You will hear the talk twice.

As you listen, write down some notes about what you hear, if you want to. Then, I will ask you six questions on some facts about the island. Are you ready?

The task will play twice.

Now I will ask you six questions. You only need to answer in a few words.

Audio script

Hello and welcome to this week's tourism programme.

Today we're going to talk about an island called Arran. Have you ever been there?

Well, first of all, I must tell you the island is only thirty kilometres long. But the island is very famous because it has a mountain festival. Do you want to go? Well, the festival takes place every May.

So let me tell you about the festival. During this annual event, most visitors go hiking in the high mountains. Just imagine the views! Everybody loves the mountain festival. This is because the guides who take people hiking are always very helpful.

At the mountain festival, there are other activities you can do. For example, there's a music concert. So, if you love mountains, why not spend your next holiday on the island of Arran.

I'm sure you'll love it.



Teacher information

Questions & answers

If the candidate asks, the examiner may repeat the questions once.

	Question	Answer
1	How big is the island of Arran?	It's 30 kilometres long
2	Why is the island of Arran famous?	Because it has a mountain festival
3	When does the mountain festival take place?	(Every) May
4	What do most people do at the mountain festival?	Go hiking
5	Why do people love the mountain festival?	Because the guides are very helpful
6	What other activity is there at the festival?	A music concert

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Sample independent listening task 1

Kieron Williamson

Examiner rubric

Give the candidate some blank notepaper.

You're going to hear a short talk about a boy called Kieron Williamson. You will hear the talk twice.

As you listen, write down some notes about what you hear, if you want to. Then, I will ask you six questions on some facts about the boy. Are you ready?

The task will play twice.

Now I will ask you six questions. You only need to answer in a few words.

Audio script

Hello. In this week's programme about young people, we're going to talk about a teenage boy called Kieron Williamson.

As a very young boy, Kieron had a passion for art. When he was just five years old, his parents discovered his talent for painting.

And then, while he was growing up, local artists taught him all about painting.

And, later on, at his first exhibition, he sold all of his paintings in just fourteen minutes! How extraordinary is that!

So far in his career, he's had more than ten exhibitions to show everybody his work. That's just incredible for a teenager, isn't it?

The reason why Kieron's pictures are very popular is because of the way he uses colour. I'm sure we'll hear more about this talented boy in the future. Now, let's have a look at some of his most popular pictures.



Teacher information

Questions & answers

If the candidate asks, the examiner may repeat the questions once.

	Question	Answer
1	What was his passion as a very young boy?	Art/painting
2	What did his parents discover when he was five years old?	His talent for painting
3	Who taught him about painting while he was growing up?	Local artists
4	How long did it take to sell all his paintings in his first exhibition?	14 minutes
5	How many exhibitions has he had?	(More than) 10
6	Why are his pictures popular?	The way he uses) colour

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Teacher information

Sample independent listening task 2

Julia Donaldson

Examiner rubric

You're going to hear a short talk about a person. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me in a few words what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Now tell me in a few words what the talk is about.

Give the candidate some blank notepaper.

Now listen to the talk again. Write down some notes about what you hear, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me six pieces of information about Julia Donaldson. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Now tell me six pieces of information about Julia Donaldson.

When the candidate has finished, select four follow-up questions from the list below. Choose four questions which correspond to facts not already reported by the candidate.

Audio script

Good morning everyone. Today we're going to talk about the writer Julia Donaldson. So, let me tell you something about her life.

First of all, as a child Julia could speak three languages. How unusual! Later, she studied French at university.

Julia started playing the guitar after she left university. It's interesting that she played her music in Europe.

I expect that was fun! As a young writer, she wrote songs for children. Then, in 1993 she wrote her first book.

Since then, Julia has won more than ten awards for her writing. It's amazing that she has written nearly two hundred books.

So how does she write her books? Well, she gets some of her ideas from talking to people. When she works on a new book, Julia has to plan it, but it might only take two weeks to actually write the book!

So, what's next for Julia? Well, she's planning to teach drama in schools. Isn't that great?

Now, let's look at some of her books.

Questions and answers on the next page



Teacher information

Questions & answers

If the candidate asks, the examiner may repeat the questions once.

What the talk is about: A writer/Julia Donaldson.

	Fact from recording	Follow-up question
1	She could speak three languages as a child	How many languages could she speak as a child?
2	She studied French at university	What did she study at university?
3	She started playing the guitar (after she finished university)	What did she start to do after she finished university?
4	She played her music in Europe	Where did she play her music?
5	She wrote songs for children (as a young writer)	Who did she write songs for as a young writer?
6	She wrote her first book in 1993	When did she write her first book?
7	She has won (more than) 10 awards (for her writing)	How many awards has she won?
8	She has written (nearly) 200 books	How many books has she written?
9	She gets some of her ideas from talking to people	How does she get some of her ideas?
10	She has to plan (when she works on a new book)	What does she have to do when she works on a new book?
11	It might take two weeks to write a new book	How long might it take to write a new book?
12	She is planning to teach drama in schools	What is she planning to do next?

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Sample independent listening task 2

Steve Backshall

Examiner rubric

You're going to hear a short talk about a British filmmaker called Steve Backshall. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me in a few words what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Now tell me in a few words what the talk is about.

Give the candidate some blank notepaper.

Now listen to the talk again. Write down some notes about what you hear, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me six pieces of information about Steve Backshall. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Now tell me six pieces of information about Steve Backshall.

When the candidate has finished, select four follow-up questions from the list below. Choose four questions which correspond to facts not already reported by the candidate.

Audio script

Today I'm going to tell you about a British film maker called Steve Backshall.

Have you seen any of his films? He makes wonderful programmes about wildlife. These shows are very popular with children. This is because he's so brave! Now, Steve made his first film in 1998. To make this film he travelled all the way to Colombia. When he was there he lived in the jungle. I wouldn't like that, would you? Then a popular television channel bought his film. Since then he's worked on all seven continents. Isn't that amazing? Steve prefers filming scary animals. A lot of people think he has a very dangerous job. But Steve always prepares by studying the animals very carefully. Next, he's planning to make a film about rivers. And now let's watch one of his most famous films about...



Teacher information

Questions & answers

If the candidate asks, the examiner may repeat the questions once.

What the talk is about: A filmmaker and his life making animal films.

	Fact from recording	Follow-up question
1	Steve makes programmes about wildlife	What kind of programmes does Steve make?
2	His shows are very popular with children	Who are his shows popular with?
3	Children like his shows because he's so brave	Why do children like his shows?
4	He made his first film in 1998	When did Steve make his first film?
5	He went to Colombia	Which country did he go to?
6	He lived in the jungle	Where did he live?
7	A popular television channel bought the film	Who bought the film?
8	He has worked on all seven continents	How many continents has Steve worked on?
9	Steve prefers filming scary animals	What kind of animals does Steve prefer filming?
10	A lot of people think his job is dangerous	What do a lot of people think about his job?
11	Steve prepares by studying the animals very carefully	How does Steve prepare?
12	He's planning to make a film about rivers	What is he planning to make a film about?